
The original instrument was prepared by Curry Johnson. The following digest, which does not constitute a part of the legislative instrument, was prepared by Jeanne Johnston.

DIGEST

Nevers (SB 271)

Proposed law creates the "Forestry Product Fairness Act."

Proposed law recognizes the contribution the forest products industry makes to the state and the importance of the continued health of the industry to the state's economy. Provides that a fair and equitable process for awarding state incentives to the forest products industry is necessary to maintain economic viability. Provides that the purpose of proposed law is to ensure an open process for awarding incentives that encourages the use of forest products, but does not give one segment of the forest products industry an unfair advantage and does not put existing businesses at a competitive disadvantage.

Proposed law defines "forest products" as products that are derived from woody biomass; forest wood waste, including residual tops and limbs of trees, unused cull trees, pre-commercial thinnings, and wood or debris from noncommercial tree species, slash or brush; and any wood chips or fibers or other organic substances and any inorganic substances recovered from forest wood waste or produced as byproducts of processing wood.

Proposed law defines "tax exemption, tax credit, tax exclusion, tax deduction, rebate, incentive, investment, contract, or grant" as any such benefit that is not available by operation of law to all persons purchasing forest products to produce the generation of steam, heat, electricity, or the production of wood-based fuels.

Proposed law requires that any tax exemption, tax credit, tax exclusion, tax deduction, rebate, incentive, investment, contract, or grant made available by the state to any individual, partnership, corporation, association or other legal entity purchasing forest products to produce the generation of steam, heat, electricity or the production of wood-based fuels be approved by the commissioner through a fair and equitable application process.

Proposed law requires that the application process be available to individuals and both new and existing partnerships, corporations, associations or other legal entities.

Proposed law requires the commissioner to promulgate rules and regulations in consultation with the secretary of the Dept. of Economic Development.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Adds R.S. 3:4421-4425)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Senate Floor Amendments to engrossed bill.

1. Provides legislative purpose statement.
2. Provides definition of available incentives.
3. Expands list of incentives available.
4. Changes category of purchased items eligible for incentives from "forest product raw materials" to "forest products."
5. Requires that rules and regulations be promulgated in consultation with the secretary of the Dept. of Economic Development.